



NEED AND PURPOSE

Commute travel on U.S. 50 is heavily congested with extensive periods of stop-and-go traffic. Residential, commercial and employment development in the U.S. 50 corridor is projected to continue growing at a substantial rate along with strong job growth in the cities of Sacramento, Rancho Cordova and Folsom. Personal mobility and reliable commute times are declining in the corridor due to increasing traffic congestion on U.S. 50. Downtown Sacramento job growth is increasing the number of commuters and commute buses that travel through residential neighborhoods from freeway exits to employment sites. This U.S. 50 commute traffic affects the quality of life and livability of midtown and downtown neighborhoods.

The project purpose is to:

- Improve mobility
- Provide an option for reliable peak period travel time.
- Improve traffic operations with particular attention to reducing the complexity of traffic weave movements in the vicinity of the W/X freeway segment in downtown.
- Use the highway facilities as efficiently as possible.
- Provide incentives for commuters to use carpools, vanpools or buses for peak period travel.
- Identify specific strategies and projects to improve the midtown and downtown Sacramento street system so as to enhance neighborhood livability.
- Coordinate with other projects and studies being conducted in the corridor.

Caltrans is currently analyzing the feasibility of a possible High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lane option. If the traffic and economic studies determine that HOT lanes are feasible, a HOT lane alternative will be studied as part of the draft environmental document.